Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 DPW-01 AID-20 IGA-02 /181 W

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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO USINFO WASHDC PRIORITY

SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 418

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT CAIRO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

DIA WASHDC

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USINFO FOR IOR/M, IPS, IBS, INE

BEIRUT FOR VOA AND RAPA

ROME FOR VOA

E O 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION PRESS REVIEW NOV 6

1. US-ISRAELI DIALOGUE AND EGYPT WAR THREATS REMAIN MEDIA'S MAJOR ITEMS. HAARETZ (GOLAN) SAYS MRS MEIR REJECTED US PROPOSALS TO LIFT BLOCKADE OF THIRD ARMY. DAVAR (ESHED) SAYS UNCLASSIFIED

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NOTWITO TANDING US-ISRAELI DISAGREEMENTS, US (NOW) UNDERSTANDS

BETTER DANGERS INHERENT IN CHANGING PRESENT CEASEFIRE LINES BEFORE ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN AGREEMENT ON CEASEFIRE ARRANGEMENT. AL HAMISHMAR BELIEVES GAP BETWEEN US AND ISRAEL ON POLITICAL MATTERS BECOMING WIDER, MAARIV (HARIF) SAYS MRS MEIR'S IMPRESSION IS THAT WASHINGTON BELIEVES PROBLEM OF THIRD ARMY IS HINDERING US ATTEMPTS TO MOVE CLOSER TO EGYPT. MEDIA CONTINUE TO REPORT ON CAIRO'S EFFORT TO CREATE WAR ATMOSPHERE. HAARETZ REPORTS QUIET TENSION ALONG SOOUTHERN FRONT. DAVAR (YAARI) BELIEVES THAT SADAT--PRESSED BY IRAO-LIBYA AND SAUDI ARABIA-KUWAIT TO RESUME FIRE--WILL MAKE DECISION AFTER KISSINGER'S DEPARTURE. DAVAR EDITORIAL SAYS IDF READY FOR ANY DEVELOPMENT. COMMENTATORS URGE GOI TO BRIDGE CREDIBILCTY GAP BY PROVIDING ACCURATE INFORMATION TO ISRAELI PUBLIC. HAARETZ (RUBINSTEIN) SAYS WAR STRENGTHENED POSITION OF THOSE WHO SUPPORTED DEMILITARIZATION OF SINAI. COMMENT-ING ON MOSCOW'S INTERPRETATION THAT US ALERT WAS CONNECTED WITH PRESIDENT NIXON'S INTERNAL PROBLEM, HAARETZ EDITORIAL HOPES MOSCOW REALIZES DANGERS OF PROVOKING "INJURED BEAR." EDITORIALS JUSTIFY GOI MEASURES TO LIT PRIVATE CONSUMPTION.

2. US-ISRAELI DIALOGUE: (A) MAARIV (INDEPENDENT)(HARIF) WRITES: "MRS MEIR HAS STRONGLY REJECTED US REQUESTS TO: (A) PERMIT REGULAR NON-MILITARY SUPPLIES TO REACH THE ENCIRCLED THIRD ARMY? AND (B) WITHDRAW TO OCTBER 22 CEASEFIRE LINES...THE FIRST MEIR-KISSINGER MEETING WAS TENSE AND DIFFICULT..THEREAFTER THE ATMOSPHERE IMPOROVED...MRS MEIR MAINTAINED THAT ISRAEL SHOULD NOT BE REQUESTED TOTAKE ACTIONS THAT MIGHT WORSEN ITS MILITARY POSITION... BOTH PRESIDENT NIXON AND KISSINGER BELIEVE THAT THE THIRD ARMY SHOULD NOT BE LIQUIDATED...IN HER US VISIT, MRS MEIR GRAINED THE IMPRESSION THAT THE US BELIEVES THE PROBLEM OF THE THIRD ARMY IS HINDERING ITS ATTEMPTS TO GET CLOSER TO EGYPT...KISSINGER'S EFFORTS TO HAVE ISRAEL COMPLY WITH US REQUESTS STEMS FROM TENDENCY TO COMPLY WITH EGYPTIAN DESIRES...WHEN EGYPT IS CONDITIONING ITS CONSENT TO TALK ON POW EXCHANGE AND LIFTING BLOCKADE ON BAB EL MANDAB...UPON LIFTING THIRD ARMY'S BLOCKADE..."

(B)

AVAR (HISTADRUT)(ESHED) WRITES:"....NOT WITHSTANDING THAT DISAGREEMENTS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND THE US STILL EXIST...
THE IMPRESSION IS (THAT AFTER MEIR'S TALKS) WASHINGTON UNDERSTANDS BETTER THE DANGERS INHERENT (FOR ISRAEL2; IN ANY CHANGES IN THE UNCLASSIFIED

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PRESENT CEASEFIRE LINES WITHOUT NEGOTIATIONS OR AGREEMENT WITH EYGPT ON SUBJECTS CONNECTED WITH THE CEASEFIRE..."

(C) AL HAMISHMAR (MAPAM) WRITES: "IT IS DOUBTFUL WHETHER MRS MEIR WAS 'PLEASED' ABOUT HER VISIT IN WASHINGTON. SINCE UNLIKE THE WAR PERIOD WHEN WASHINGTON GAVE ISRAEL POLITICAL AND MILITARY SUPPORT...NOW THAT THE WHEELS ARE ROLLING IN THE POLITICAL LIVEL, DIFFICULTIES AND DIFFERENCES OF VIEW BETWEEN ISRAEL AND THE US ARE INCREASING..."

(D) YEDIOT AHARONOT (INDPENDENT) WRITES: "ALTHOGH THE WASHINGTON TALKS WERE

ON SUBJECTS CONNECTED WITH THE CEASEFIRE AND EGYPTIAN WAS THREATS. VIEWS WERE EXCHANGED ON POSSIBILITIES OF ADVANCING PEACE SETTLEMENT BETWEEN ISRAELAND ITS NEIGHBORS. AMONG OTHER THINGS, KISSINGER REQUESTED MRS MEIR TO COME UP WITH ISRAEL'S BASIC TENETS IN THIS RESPECT." (E) JERUSALEM POST (INDEPENDENT) REPORTS:"...AN INFORMED (ISRAELI) SOURCE CHARACTERIZED MRS MEIR'S TALKS IN WASHINGTON AS A CLARIFICATION OF POSITIONS....ISRAEL WOULD NOW AWAIT THE OUTCOME OF DR KISSINGER'S VISIT IN CAIRO AND WHETHER EGYPT WAS PREPARED TO CHANGE ITS STAND...IT SEEMED THAT ISRAEL WAS OPEN TO SUGGESTIONS FOR A 'PACKAGE DEAL' INVOLVING ALL COMPONENTS OF THE CEASEFIRE." JERUSALEM POST WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENTS (GOTTLIEH AND FRENKEL), COMMENTING ON LACK OF INFORMATION ON US TALKS WITH MEIR, EGYPTIAN AND SYRIAN REPRESENTATIVES, NOTES: "OBSERVERS WERE DIVIDED OVER WHETHER THE LACK OF INFORMATION SIGNALLED CONTINUING DEADLOCK OR JUST THE DELICACY OF THE US DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS."

3. US AID TO ISRAEL: PRESS CARRIES PROMINENTY REPORTS FROM WASHINGTON ON STATE DEPARTMENTJRS SUPPORT FOR ADMINISTRATION'S \$2.2 BILLION REQUEST FOR EMERGENCY ARMS SUPPPLIES TO ISRAEL. MAARIV (SEGEV FROM WASHINGTON) NOTES ISRAEL SUBMITTED LIST OF ARMS REQUESTS APPROXIMATING \$3 BILLION.

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AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
USINT CAIRO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
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*. SADAT'S WAR THREATS: (A) MEDIA CONTINE TO REPVORT ON CAIRO'S ATTEMPT "TO CREATE WAR ATMOSPHERE" ON EVE OF KISSINGER'S ARRIVAL IN CAIRO. DAVAR EDITORIALIZES" "THE CONCURRENCE (OF THE DATE) OF KISSINGER'S ARRIVALIN CAIRO AND PRIME MINISTER MEIR'S STATEMENT AT THE KNESSET (NOVEMBER 7) MIGHT CREATE ...A WRONG IMPRESSION...THAT THE DECISION ON THE CONTINUATION OF THE CEASEFIRE WILL FALL ON THIS DATE...THE TIME THE IDF IS READY TO ANTICIPATE ANY (EGYPTIAN) SURPRISES..."

(B) DAVAR ARAB AFFIRS COMMENTATOR WRITES: "THE THIRD ARMY REMAINS THE KEY TO FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS..IT IS POSSIBLE THAT UNCLASSIFIED

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SADAT WILL BE READY TO EVACUATE THE THIRD ARMY FROM THE EAST BANK OF THE CANAL...IN RETURN FOR AN ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM THE WEST BANK...HOWEVER, THIS PROPOSAL WILL LEAVE THE SECON ARMY IN SINAI AND WILL ENABEL THE THIRD ARMY TO GET REORGANIZED UNDER MORE CONVENIENT CIRCUMSTANCE...THE IMPRESSION GIVEN BY THE ARAB MEIA IS THAT ALL MILITARY INITIATIVES (ON THE PART OF EGYPT) WILL HAVE ONE OBJECTIVE: THE RELIEF OF THE THIRD ARMY... AT LEAST FOR THE PRESENT TIME WE HEAR NO TALKS ABOUT "FREEING THE REST OF THE TERRITORIES'... SADAT IS RECEIVING PRESSURE FROM LIBYA-IRAQ AND FROM SAUDI ARABIA-KUWAIT TO RESUME FIGHTING...THE WAR THREATS ACCORD SADAT A BREATHING SPACE.. HOWEVER, WHEN KISSINGER DEPARTS, SADAT WILL HAVE TO MAKE A DECISON..."

- (C) CARTER (WRITING FOR YEDIOT AHARONOT) SAYS US OFFICIALS ACCOMPANYING KISSINGER ON HIS GOUR TO ARAB COUNTRIES DO NOT BELIEVE THAT SADAT WILL ACT ON HIS THREATS TO RESUMT FIGHTING.
- 5. WAR LESSONS: (A) PROFESSOR ARNES (TEL-AVIV UNIVERSITY--LIKUD CANDIDATE FOR KNESSET LIST)(WRITING FOR MAARIV) COMMENTS: "ISRAEL'S POLICY FOR THE FITIES AND SIXTIES WAS BUILD ON THE POLICY OF LAUNCHING

"PRE-EMPTIVE STRIKE"...SINE THE WAR, MRS MEIR TELL US ISRAEL'S POLICY NOW DIFFERS...ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT LESSONS OF THIS WAR IS

AN EVALUATION OF THE POLITICAL ADVANTAGES COMPARED TO THE MILITARY DAMAGES IN FOSTERING A POLICY OF "ABSORBING THE FIRST (ENEMY'S) STRIKE..

WHEN MAKING SUCH AN ESTIMATE IT IS IMPORTANT TO TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION THE LOSSES, THE PROLONGED TIME NEEDED TO RUN THE WAR AND THE DANGER OF SUSTAINING A MILITARY DEFEAT...THIS OVER AND ABOVE THE FACT THAT A MILITARY SYSTEM DESTINED TO "ABOSRB THE FIRST STRIKE" REQUIRED FAR MORE RESOURCES THAN A SYSTEM FORMED TO LAUNCH A 'PRE-EMPTIVE STRIKE'...."

(B) HAARETZ (RUBINSTEIN) WRITES: "THIS WAR JUSTIFIED...THE POSITON TAKEN BY THE 'RESTRAINED CAMP".... THOSE WHO MANAGED TO UNDERSTAND THE RESTRICTIONS OF OUR STRENGTH AND THE NEED TO TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION THE STRENGTH, RIGH AND SENSITIVITY OF OTHERS...WHOEVER WANTS TO IGNORE THESE ELEMENTS IS PROPOSING A BLACK FUTURE FOR ISRAEL...THIS WAR DISCREDITED THE ESTIMATE WHICH VIEWED THE CEASEFIRE BORDERS (PRE-OCT 6) AS SECURE AND IDEAL...AND STRENGTHENED THE POSITON OF THOSE WHO SUPPORTED THE DEMILITARIZATION OF SINAI..."

(C) DAVAR (ARNON) BELIEVES THAT BOTH DOVES AND HAWS MUST RE-UNCLASSIFIED

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EVALUATE THEIR FOREIGN POLICY IDEOLOGY SINE WAR SHOOK UP BOTH ESTIMATES: "...ON THE ONE PART, THE 1967 CEASEFIRE BORDERS DID NOT ENSURE PEACE...OR AN EASY VICTORY...AND ON THE OTHER ISRAEL DID NOT PROVE TO BE STROHMER THAN ITS NEIGHBORS (TO THE EXTENT) THAT ISRAEL NEED NOT HOLD TERRITORIES..."

6. EBAN' TALKS IN ROMANIA: MEDIA CONTINUE HIGHLIGHT IMPORTANCE OF EBAN'S TALKS IN ROMANIA AND CARRY RUMORS OF MEETING BETWEEN EBAN AND SENIOR SOVIET OFFICIAL. MAARIV CORRESPONDENT IN ROMANIA IS PERHAPS (ALSO) CONNECTED... WITH THE PRESSURE WHICH MOSCOW AND BELGRADE AUTHORITIES TRIED TO PUT ON ROMANIA TO SEVER ITS DIPLOMATIC TIES WITH ISRAEL."

7. EGYPT'S PEACE PROPOSAL: MAARIV (URI DAN) REPORTS: "PROPOSALS FOR ISRAELI AND EGYPTIAN WITHDRAWAL FROM BOTH BANKS OF THE CANAL WERE EXCHANGED (WITH US KNOWLEDGE) IN THE PAST TWO WEEKS IN AND ATTEMPT TO BREAK THE TENSE STANDSTILL. HOWEVER, EACH PARTY REJECTED THE OTHER'S PROPOSALS..EGYPT (FEELING IT IS IN A STRONG POSITON) PROPOSED THAT A FORMAL CEASEFIRE AGREEMENT BE CONCULDED, AS AN INTERIM SETTLEMENT, IF ISRAEL WITHRAWS ALL IT FORCES UP TO 35 KILOMETERS EAST OF THE CANAL..."

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, WAR, ARMISTICE, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE, PEACE PLANS Control Number: n/a

Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 06 NOV 1973 Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: n/a Disposition Approved on Date: Disposition Authority: n/a Disposition Case Number: n/a Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Decument Number: 1072771 AV

Document Number: 1973TELAV08984 Document Source: CORE Document Unique ID: 00

Drafter: n/a Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A Errors: N/A Film Number: n/a From: TEL AVIV

Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path:

Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731151/aaaabljf.tel Line Count: 269

Locator: TEXT ON-LINE Office: ACTION NEA

Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED Original Handling Restrictions: n/a Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 5

Previous Channel Indicators: Previous Classification: n/a Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a Reference: n/a Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Authority: cunninfx

Review Content Flags:

Review Date: 24 JAN 2002 **Review Event:**

Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24-Jan-2002 by chappeld>; APPROVED <07 FEB 2002 by cunninfx>

Review Markings:

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier: Review Referrals: n/a Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: MEDIA REACTION PRESS REVIEW NOV 6

TAGS: PINS, PINT, IS, EG

To: STATE

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005